

Message Text

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SUBJ: SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION: WEO/G-77 CONTACT GROUP

REF: USUN 4069

1. SUMMARY: THE WEO/G-77 CONTACT GROUP CONTINUED THE FIRST READING OF THE POSITION PAPERS OF THE EC-9, US., AND G-77 AT AN EVENING SESSION ON SEPTEMBER 5. THIS SESSION DEALT WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND STRUCTURAL REFORM. THE US. DELEGATION TOOK AND ACTIVE PART IN THE CONTACT GROUP, EXPLAINING THE RECENTLY TABLED US. PROPOSALS AND STIMULATING PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO THEM. THE CONTACT GROUP DECIDED TO ESTABLISH "CONSULTATION" GROUPS CHARGED WITH DRAFTING RESOLUTION LANGUAGE ON THE THREE AGENDA ITEMS. THE IDEA OF SETTING UP CONSULTATION GROUPS WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED--AS REPORTED IN USUN 4069 THE WEO/G-77 CONTACT GROUP AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING DECIDED TO SET UP ONLY TWO NEGOTIATING GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SEPTEMBER 5 EVENING SESSION OF THE WEO/G-77 CONTACT GROUP WAS DEVOTED TO THE FIRST REVIEW OF THE EC-9, US., AND G-77 POSITIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INDISTRIALIZA- UNCLASSIFIED

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TION, AND STRUCTURAL REFORM TOPICS. THE US. LED OFF THE

DISCUSSION BY INSISTING THAT THE FIRST REVIEW SHOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO A LINE-BY-LINE REVIEW OF THE CURRENT G-77 DRAFT, BUT RATHER SHOULD REVIEW THE PROPOSALS MADE BY ALL COUNTRIES. THE US. STATEMENT WAS GENERALLY ENDORSED AND THUS FORE-STALLED AN APPARENT EFFORT BY THE CHAIRMAN TO LIMIT THE DIS-CUSSION TO THE G-77 PROPOSALS.

3. ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE G-77 SPOKESMAN (EGYPT) STRESSED THAT THE CURRENT US. PROPOSALS HAD NOT YET BEEN SUBJECTED TO A G-77 REVIEW AND, THUS, THE G-77 REACTIONS COULD ONLY BE PRELIMINARY. HE STATED THAT IT APPEARED THAT MANY OF THE US. PROPOSALS WOULD SEEM TO BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR ALTER CONSIDERATION AT THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THEN HE NOTED THAT THE CORNERSTONE OF THE G-77 PROPOSALS WAS THE PARAGRAPH CALLING FOR THE ADOPTION OF A LEGALLY BINDING CODE OF CONDUCT ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND ON THE NEED FOR A REVISION OF THE PATENT SYSTEM.

4. THE US., EC-9, JAPAN, CANADA, NORWAY, AND SWEDEN ALL STRESSED THE UNACCEPTABILITY OF LANGUAGE REFERRING TO A LEGALLY BINDING CODE AND ALSO CALLED FOR USE OF LANGUAGE ON A POSSIBLE REVISION OF THE PATENT SYSTEM WHICH WOULD PROJUDICE WIPO'S CURRENT WORK BEING CARRIED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH UNCTAD. THERE WAS GENERAL, IF CAUTIOUS, ENDORSEMENT OF THE INFORMATION BANK PROPOSALS OF THE G-77, WITH CANADA NOTING THAT THIS PROPOSAL WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER IN-DEPTH STUDY. THE APPROPRIATENESS OF CALLING FOR TARGETS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF LDC'S WAS QUESTIONED BY JAPAN AND CANADA. THE GENERAL OPINION OF THE WEO'S SEEMED TO BE THAT LANGUAGE OF PARA 5 OF G-77 PAPER TO THE EFFECT THAT GOVERNMENTAL-OWNED TECHNOLOGIES SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED FREE WAS FAR TOO SWEEP-ING. THE US. STRESSED THE NEED FOR AN ENVIRONMENT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY BASED ON MUTUAL TRUST AND RESULT-ING IN MUTUAL BENEFIT FOR BOTH SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS OF TECHNOLOGY. WE JOINED IN EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE G-77 LANGUAGE ON A LEGALLY BINDING CODE AND ON THE REVISION OF THE PATENT SYSTEM.

5. THE DISCUSSION CLOSED WITH THE G-77 SPOKESMAN REITERA-TING THE G-77 POINTS ON TARGETS, THE LEGALLY BINDING NATURE OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT, AND THE NEED TO REVISE THE PAT4

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